



WDFW Enforcement Program Advisory Committee
February 11th, 2012
1000-1300
Dept. of Natural Resources, Ellensburg, WA

Members in Attendance:	
John Suessman, Chair	Jay Webster
Andrew Hamilton	Dave Croonquist
Don Gulliford	Robin Hickok
Bob Holtfreter	Lyle Cabe
Tony Messineo	Ed Scullywest
WDFW Staff:	
Bruce Bjork, Chief	Mike Cenci, Deputy Chief
Garret Ward, Budget & Records Manager	Sean Carrell, Prob. Wildlife Coord.
Anthony Novack, Deer & Elk Conflict	
Members Absent:	
Dave Robinson	Dean Byus
Eric Granstrom	Ed Owens
Kelly Riordan	Dave Ruffin, Vice Chair
Terry Abrams	

Chief Bruce Bjork convened meeting at 1000

[November 2011 Meeting Minutes Reviewed and Approved](#)

Introductions

Brief introductions were given around the room. The group welcomed the newest addition Mr. Tony Messineo. Messineo is a Pierce County Sheriff Deputy and has been with the department for almost ten years now. Messineo is also a firearms instructor. Chair John Suessman asked for motion to approve November's meeting minutes. A motion was made to approve minutes. Chair Suessman asked Ed Scullywest if there was an agenda item that he would like to add. Scullywest advised that there is a new iPhone app that shows WDFW's regulations and maps for various species for hunting.

New Business

Master Hunter Survey Update: Chair Suessman asked Anthony Novack, deer/elk conflict specialist, to talk about his final survey review. Novack talked about the self reporting on illegal behavior and success of master hunter program. There were over 1,100 participants. Novack gave an analysis from deer/elk hunters illegal activity. Questions that were asked in the survey were asked regarding illegal activity of those that actually participated in hunting activity. More people admitted to violating while hunting deer instead of elk. Bob Holtfreter asked how many master hunters responded. Novack advised that there were only forty master hunters that responded to the survey. Chief Bjork asked if this was all done on the westside, or eastside. Novack advised it was primarily on the westside right now and advised the eastside statistics are not complete, but may be once they complete the rest of eastside classes. Chief Bjork asked if this could be done online. Novack advised that it would be hard; not really sure folks would feel that it would be anonymous. Tony Messineo asked how many master hunters there were in this state. Novack advised that there are over 2,000. Chair Suessman asked what's the difference between the sample error. Novack advised the sample error correlates with the number of surveys. Holtfreter asked if there's a way to get contact information and remind them to take the survey. Website? E-mail? Chief Bjork advised that there's something that could be done to assist with this and that this is a good idea. Holtfreter asked what Novack's hypothesis was regarding master hunters and non-master hunters. Novack thought that more non-master hunters were violating than master hunters. Chief Bjork asked if there are plans to do surveys in Regions 1, 2, and 3. Novack advised that they will be at the Spokane and Yakima Sportsmen shows. Chief Bjork advised that there might be some follow-up that could be coordinated in Hunter Education.

Legislation: Chief Bjork advised the group on Title 77 omnibus bill HB 2364 and SB 6135 (Regarding Enforcement of Fish and Wildlife Violations). House bill died in ways and means and that was because Dept. of Corrections put a large fiscal note on the bill. Chief Bjork advised that the second section of the bill had unranked felonies. DOC thought that WDFW was creating fifteen new felonies. Chief Bjork advised that it should not have had a fiscal impact. DOC revised their fiscal note after contact, but the bill is still dead. SB 6135 is currently on the senate floor calendar and should be passed by next Tuesday. If it doesn't make it out of the house of origin, the bill is dead. Chief Bjork advised that there were a few amendments. Chief Bjork also advised the group on the LEOFF bill, HB 2350, transferring service credits from PERS into LEOFF. There are ten officers that could receive their service credit and could retire. Chief Bjork advised that this was program requested legislation. Chair Suessman asked if there were any questions.

Crab Enforcement: Deputy Chief Mike Cenci gave a presentation on crab enforcement. Deputy Chief Cenci advised that the recreational section received some additional opportunity. Crab was abundant for all users and it was a good year. Dave Croonquist advised that there were some additional crab available after the recreational folks. Deputy Chief Cenci advised that crab prices were very high. Deputy Chief Cenci advised

that there were some compliance issues in the recreational fisheries. Deputy Chief Cenci advised that WDFW sent out some flyers “Know Before You Go” program. Emphasis was made to educate people. Enforcement focused law enforcement efforts on those critical areas. Deputy Chief Cenci advised that there were thirty two officers involved in a 2011 emphasis which were primarily water contacts. Enforcement increased closed season patrols as well. Deputy Chief Cenci advised that there were 2,189 fishers contacted compared to 1,790 in 2010. Over 4,700 crab were checked. Deputy Chief Cenci gave some compliance statistics regarding enforcement contacts and offload site surveys. There were improvements in 2011 compared to 2010. Deputy Chief Cenci advised Commission and co-managers that change is not going to come in a single season and WDFW cooperation with organized sports groups will help with this continued effort. Deputy Chief Cenci advised that there was a high rate of undersized crab and derelict gear issues. Enforcement spent extra time confiscating derelict gear. There were 42 emphasis patrol days cleaning up derelict gear. Croonquist asked if those were officer patrol days. Deputy Chief Cenci advised that they were not. Croonquist advised that there are only 18 days between closed seasons. Deputy Chief Cenci advised that it includes other days closed during tribal as well. Rot cord compliance was high at 19%. Most of these stats came from lost or derelict gear. There were 56 pots inspected: 21 had no rot cord for only a 62% compliance rating. Chief Bjork asked if there’s a concurrent regulation in regards to rot cord. Deputy Chief Cenci advised that there are regulations, but they are not concurrent. Deputy Chief Cenci advised that staff also worked commercial violations in 2011 for gear/crab thefts, failure to account for count of catch, etc. Don Gulliford asked if WDFW seized the poundage. Deputy Chief Cenci advised that they did not as product had been sold already. Deputy Chief Cenci advised that there were commercial closed area incidents, such as fishing in excess of pot limits. There were four separate multi-day US-Canada border patrols. Two vessels seized; 450 crab pots removed. Gulliford asked if we sell these pots. Deputy Chief Cenci advised that we do. Chief Bjork advised that information is being used through our social media sites. Holtfreter asked if there is a ban on hard core fishers. Deputy Chief advised that there are ways to suspend violators. Chief Bjork advised that there is a two year mandatory license suspension for spotlighting. Non-toxic shot in areas where it is prohibited carries a mandatory one year suspension and shooting of livestock while hunting, or shooting at another person while hunting, and there is an automatic three year license suspension. Mandatory life long suspension if someone shoots another person.

WAC Revisions: Deputy Chief Cenci gave a presentation on a WAC overhaul and revisions. Most of title 77 and 75 were merged. An administrative analyst was hired to clean up WAC’s and reorganize WAC’s as there are repetitive rules and there’s no enforceability of some of those rules. Some rules are outdated; comingled commercial and recreational rules and provisions are not identifiable. Deputy Chief Cenci advised that there have been many authors over the years that have developed these rules. There are still references made in WAC’s regarding Dept. of Fisheries and the Dept. of Game. Chapters need to be all inclusive. There are some enforcement benefits. Deputy Chief Cenci advised that there must be statutory authority in order to enforce rules. Also, there will be increased benefits with prosecution and judicial benefits; will increase successful prosecutions. Public benefits and so does the program. Over 85% is general

housekeeping; 15% deals with substantive changes. Additionally, Enforcement will consolidate all agency WACs under one title. Currently WDFW has two left over merger in 1994. They are WAC 220 and WAC 232. The substantive changes will include reworking, streamlining, and updating language. Chair Suessman asked what the WAC change approval process is. Deputy Chief Cenci advised that it is done through the Fish & Wildlife Commission and it is a public process. Chief Bjork advised that this is great opportunity to do this in relation to the Governor's moratorium. Chief Bjork advised that there are a number of fish and wildlife regulations that are not under this moratorium. Chief Bjork advised that as soon as WDFW changes a rule, it must go through the administrative process which allows the public to comment. Chair Suessman asked the group how they would like the information to be distributed within the group. Deputy Chief Cenci advised that the draft design can be e-mailed out to the group. Chief Bjork advised that there would also be an update given at the June meeting as well. Chair Suessman advised that this should be updated at each meeting. Chief Bjork advised that it could.

CODY System Update: Garret Ward gave a presentation on the CODY system. CODY has been in business for thirty years and is primarily used on the east coast. WDFW Enforcement is the third natural resource agency to use CODY. The project is a two phased process. Phase I was records management and the mobile data terminal. Phase II of the project will be started in the next six months and will have computer aided dispatch and mapping. It will allow the mapping of incidents and GPS location, or automated vehicle locator. Ward advised the call is placed and distributed on the map. Screen in WILDCOMM will display activity. Enforcement signed the contract back in 2009. Initial meeting started as a pilot project. The first goal was to learn how to work the system first. Second goal was to learn how our needs would fit into CODY. Most fits county/city municipality; not natural resources. Third goal was to develop process to train our staff to use CODY. Power Users are the first line of support. If Power Users cannot resolve, HQ is the next line of assistance. Fourth goal was migrating several data elements (name and citation information migration). Ward advised the second data migration was moving our hunting/fishing licensees. AOC disposition reports sent into CODY as well. Pilot started in Oct. 2009 and the Power Users met once a week. Pilot concluded in May of 2010. There were two days of training in the region and once leaving training, officers were live. In 2011, data was much better. System operates both in connected and while disconnected. Ward advised that an officer cannot access the server when disconnected, but he/she can still do officer logs and complete IRF's. Search mode is in blue and every field is searchable. Pictures are also downloadable. Each tab is associated to the person identified in the search which includes citation, vehicles involved, etc. Officer conducting the search does have the ability to notify whether or not the person has a suspension/revocation and that can be added to CODY. WILD tag also gives data regarding those revocations as well as transaction information. License duration has a life of 2 years only. The system also gives the officer NCIC and wants/warrants. The IRF tab is the general information tab. Information is entered into the fields to capture incident. Citations, vehicles, and other involved persons can also be seen as well as narrative of the incidents. If the information is necessary for submitting to the court or prosecutor, information can be printed into a form from within CODY.

Andy Hamilton asked if it has previous addresses. Ward advised that it does. Officer log acts like an electronic log book. Duty day describes officer daily activities. Fields are searchable which allow the officer the ability to locate a specific incident as well. Database incident section gives the user the ability to locate information based on the date range. Ward gave a demonstration on the supervisor reporting tool. Pivot tables give the ability to locate information by incident. Property and evidence custodians can also review data that's active, the disposition of the evidence, and chain of custody. Croonquist asked reference recreational crab violation history on sex, species, etc. Ward advised that species can be looked at, but not sex and size. If it is based upon RCW then the information is available for the last ten years. Deputy Chief Cenci advised that crab violations were not pulled out of CODY. Paper form is what's driving most complaint information presented. WAC's have too much information. Chief Bjork advised that as we progress forward, it may be another piece of information that can be added. Chief Bjork advised group on disposition of trophy horns, crab pot sales, etc. will go into the reward account. Enforcement will also be developing an online firearm sale from the last two years. Chief Bjork advised that the program will be selling 500 firearms; any of those weapons that are illegal will be destroyed. The gun values range from \$100 up to \$4K, or even \$5K. Based upon fair market value, it is estimated that enforcement could received in excess of \$115K. Funds will go into the fish and wildlife reward account. Any vehicles that are seized also receive the same disposition. Scullywest advised Wyoming has an antler auction and that could be a potential opportunity to sell the horns. Chief Bjork advised that is a good idea, and that they may even throw their hat into the bid process. The regional office in Yakima did this a while back for naturally shed antlers.

Old Business

Night hunting WAC Update: Deputy Chief Cenci advised the group that there's a new rule going forward to the Commission regarding night hunting which includes some officer safety concerns. Most folks contacted at night that are spotlighting are hunting big game. There are legitimate raccoon and coyote hunters as night, but the rules are too broad. Not uncommon to be in high speed pursuits as well as contacting individuals' that are consuming alcohol. Deputy Chief Cenci advised the objective with this rule was to separate the individual from the vehicle. Do not want to criminalize those actually recreating that aren't attached to the vehicle, but those driving in vehicles with spotlights is a little different. Webster advised that while hunting over on the eastside for predators he talked to a few folks reference hunting at night. A few farmers he had talked to indicated that they do not want to be penalized for lawful activity. Webster advised that he has spoken to someone that was not aware of any safety situations. Chief Bjork advised that there were. Chair Suessman asked if a separate eastside or westside law could be done. Messineo advised if sections a and b are the primary officer safety concerns, then he agrees. Chief Bjork advised that it is, but also for the protection of public safety too. Holtfreter asked if spotlighting elk just to observe would be a violation. Deputy Chief Cenci said no. Holtfreter asked if there's a gun, could the individual then be cited. Deputy Chief Cenci advised that they could be, but depends on officer discretion. Deputy Chief Cenci advised that number 6 shot under subsection c is

not a good selection. Deputy Chief Cenci asked the chair that c be dumped; subsection d reflects current regulation; dump subsection e. Subsection f would remain the same. Chair Suessman asked if there was a motion. Messineo motioned to approve the amendments as suggested by the Deputy Chief. Webster seconded the motion. Croonquist advised that 1 be amended to change to wildlife so that it's all inclusive. Chief Bjork advised that we would look at this. Chair Suessman asked if there was any further discussion. Motion was passed. Chief Bjork gave a brief presentation on the programs Facebook page. Outdoor Police Blog is edited by Deputy Chief Cenci. Links are provided as well. Deputy Chief Cenci advised that this is a better connection with the public.

Conclusion

Scheduling of next meeting: Chair Suessman asked if there were any suggestions for a June meeting. June 9th is good for folks. Lyle Cabe motioned for June 9th. Motion was seconded for June 9th. Meeting adjourned.

Requested Action Items:

- None

Topics for Future Discussion:

- Pre and post legislative issues
- KBD Program
- Update on Wildlife Crime Stoppers by Lieutenant Steve Crown
- Presentation on scope of problems on WDFW land use

Next meeting: Video Conference Call, Saturday, June 9th, 2012 from 1000-3:00. The agenda will be sent out before the meeting with information on topics for discussion.